



NEWS RELEASE

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Date: 1/13/2022
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FATAL VEHICLE COLLISION EAST VALENCIA ROAD AND SOUTH PALO VERDE ROAD

On January 12, 2022, at 12:00 p.m., patrol officers from the Southside Division and Tucson Fire Medics were dispatched to a report of a serious-injury collision at E. Valencia Rd. and S. Palo Verde Rd. The collision involved a passenger vehicle and a semi-truck and trailer. Upon arrival, bystanders were found administering CPR to the driver of the passenger vehicle. Despite lifesaving efforts, the driver was pronounced deceased at the scene. Officers identified the driver as 46-year-old **Clay Gerald Turner**. The driver of the semi-truck, a male in his 40s, was evaluated at the scene for minor injuries. Detectives from the Traffic Investigations Unit were notified and continued the investigation. Mr. Turner's family was notified of his passing.

According to interviews conducted by officers and detectives, Mr. Turner was driving a silver 2007 Chrysler Sebring eastbound on Valencia Rd. - preparing to turn left onto northbound Palo Verde Rd. The Chrysler had turned left in front of a black semi-truck, which was traveling westbound in the middle lane of Valencia Rd. The semi-truck struck the front passenger side of Mr. Turner's vehicle and the driver of the semi immediately stopped after the collision. According to witness statements, east and westbound travel on Valencia Rd. had a green light at the time of the collision. Detectives learned that Mr. Turner was not wearing a seatbelt and the time and that the driver of the semi-truck was not impaired.

Witness interviews in conjunction with roadway evidence determined that failure to yield while making a left turn is the major contributing factor in the collision. The investigation is ongoing; however, it is unlikely that any citations or arrests will be issued.

Traffic Fatalities Year to Date:

For 2021 – 2	For 2022 – 5
Pedestrian – 1	Pedestrian – 1
Bicycle – 0	Bicycle – 0
Motorcycle – 1	Motorcycle – 1
Vehicle - 0	Vehicle – 3